



Davis places Measure N on November Ballot



On November 4, 2008, voters will decide whether Davis will become a charter city. There are two types of cities in California – general law and charter. Davis is currently a general law city. Broadly speaking, general law cities are subject to the laws adopted by the state legislature. Charter cities are subject to the California constitution, along with their own adopted charter document. A city charter acts as a local constitution and can be adopted, amended or repealed only by a majority of the voters.

Over one-hundred of California's 479 cities have charters, as do 13 of California's counties (roughly 54% of the state's population). All cities home to a University of California campus (other than Davis) have charters. In this region, charter cities include Sacramento, Folsom, Roseville, and Napa.

Charter cities derive powers from the charter. These powers apply to all matters considered "municipal affairs," which are also often called "home rule" powers. They include things such as determining the form of local government, handling local elections and establishing criteria for holding local office, establishing procedures for enacting local ordinances, and determining public contracting procedures.

Matters of "statewide concern" are regulated by state law both for general law and charter cities. Matters of statewide concern include traffic and vehicle regulation, meeting laws, certain planning and environmental laws and matters of eminent domain. A charter has no power over these issues. Charters cannot change or override statewide initiatives, such as Proposition 218 (the right to vote on taxes) or Proposition 13 (cap on property taxes). Charter cities do have additional flexibility to consider types of taxation not available to general law cities. No taxes can be approved, however, without voter approval.

The proposed charter for the city of Davis is brief and broad. It grants the maximum power of "home rule" for local

authority over local issues. It retains the maximum flexibility for the City Council to pass laws to benefit Davis residents. There are no immediate cost savings or costs included in the proposed charter.

If the proposed charter measure passes on the November 4 ballot, the City will continue its current operations. Over time, specific ordinances could be brought forward to the City Council for adoption which may alter City operations to take advantage of the flexibility of the charter. The proposed charter does not affect or alter previously approved voter initiatives such as Measure J. The charter itself can be amended at any time by a vote of the people.

PROPOSED CHARTER OF THE CITY OF DAVIS

Preamble.

The people of the city of Davis do enact and establish this Charter as the organic law of the city of Davis to secure the greatest degree of home rule possible, to preserve and enhance the quality of life, and to provide for the public health, safety, and welfare of all people of the city of Davis.

ARTICLE I. Boundaries of the City.

1.01. The boundaries of the city of Davis shall be the same as they are on the date of adoption of this Charter, and may be changed as prescribed by law.

ARTICLE II. Powers of the City.

2.01 Legislative Power of the City. The legislative power of the City shall be vested in the City Council, and in the people through the power of initiative and referendum, as provided for in the California Constitution.

See MEASURE N, Page 2

Water You Waiting For?

YOU can affect your sewer rate!

On May 20, the City adopted new sewer rates based on water usage. Instead of a flat fee, sewer rates will be calculated mainly from the average monthly winter water consumption (from November through February). The methodology places an emphasis on determining how much water ends up going down the sewer. The months of November through February are being used as base year months since water use for landscape irrigation during this time will be at minimum levels and water for your yard does not end up in the sewer system.

Regardless, your overall water usage does have a large effect on your water and sewer bill. If you live in a home with an average sized lawn, you are probably using at least half of your water outdoors. A typical Davis home could save more than 50,000 gallons of water each year through improved lawn irrigation practices.

Now that the weather is cooler, be sure to adjust your irrigation water timers. Plants do not need as much water in the fall as they do in summer. While you're resetting your irrigation timers, be sure to set the timers to water during the early morning hours when temperatures and wind speed are the lowest.

Here are some basic guidelines to help you practice efficient water use that can lower your water and sewer bill:

- Don't allow sprinklers to water your street, driveway, or sidewalk. Concrete does not grow!

- Shorten your showers—even a one or two minute reduction can save up to 700 gallons per month.

- Turn off the water when shaving or brushing your teeth. This can save three gallons of water each day.

- Defrost items in the refrigerator or microwave instead of holding them under running water.

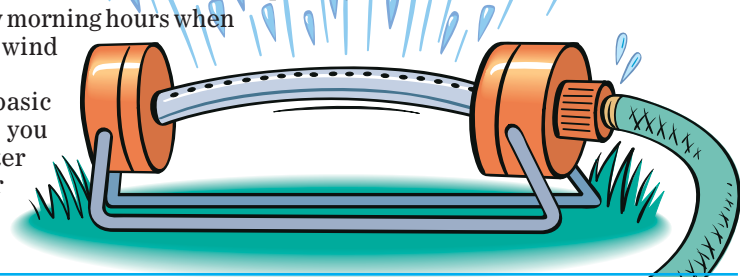
- Only run the clothes washer and dishwasher with full loads.

- Mulch plants to reduce evaporation and weed growth.

- Drive your car onto a lawn to wash it. Rinse water can help water the grass.

- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.

Leaks can be the biggest water waster of all. If you feel your water use is high, you can request assistance from the Public Works Department by calling 757-5686. Public Works staff can determine if there is a leak on your property and in most cases can quantify water losses.



Fifth Street Corridor Update

The City is conducting community discussions regarding the future of Fifth Street. The "Fifth Street Corridor" is the section of Fifth that runs between A Street and L Street through downtown Davis. This corridor serves many modes of transportation, including vehicles, delivery trucks, buses, emergency vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles. How the corridor is configured impacts these modes of transportation and the properties, businesses, and events served by the corridor. In 2005 there was discussion about whether a "road diet" (reducing the number of travel lanes from four



See FIFTH STREET, Page 2

Downtown Happenings



Above, the Amgen Tour of California raced through Davis in February.

Right, the downtown Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony.

Far right, dress up and join the fun downtown on Halloween, from 1-5 p.m.



■ California Bicycle Museum Centennial Exhibit. Base-ment of Third and B Street building at Central Park, October through December, Wednesdays 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm and Saturdays 9:00 am to noon.

■ Halloween Trick-or-Treat. Friday, October 31, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

■ Downtown Holiday Tree Lighting and Open House. Thursday, December 4, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

■ Amgen Tour of California Bicycle Race, Stage 2 Start. Sunday, February 15, 2009. For more information, see www.cityofdavis.org.

Fall Fire Safety Around the Home

Homes can catch fire and burn because "fuels" frequently are too close to the building. These fuels can take many forms.

For example, pine needles can build up on the ground or a roof. This dry material can be ignited easily by a heat source. Leaves, dry and dead plants and other organic debris from our yards can be highly combustible.

What to do? Prevention is the best solution. Take a look at your yard and outside around your house. Try to identify potential hazards or combustible materials that could be ignited easily and take steps to remedy the situation. A few items to check include:

■ Pine needles, leaves, or other debris more than one or two inches deep. Be mindful of the roof, rain gutters and side yards – areas that you might not inspect frequently. Rake up and remove organic materials.

■ Dead or dying vegetation, including vines and similar woody plants that have been allowed to grow without trimming during the summer.

■ Overgrown and untrimmed trees and bushes. Use clippers or a saw and reduce the amount of growth that has accumulated. Keep in mind that palm trees are frequently overlooked as a severe fire hazard. Unless trimmed periodically to remove the dry fronds, palm trees can ignite and produce a tremendous amount of heat and airborne burning material. Such burning embers, known as "brands", have been known to ignite houses hundreds of feet from the original tree fire.

■ Lumber, oil, paint and similar materials stored next to the house should be recycled or sent to the landfill when possible. Yolo County Landfill has specific days when you can drop off household hazardous waste (www.cityofdavis.org/pw/recycle)

Remember, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."



MEASURE N, from Page 1: Charter city on the ballot

2.02 General Powers: Municipal Affairs. The City shall have all powers possible for a city to have under the Constitution and laws of the State of California as fully and completely as though they were specifically enumerated in this Charter. The City shall have the power to make and enforce all ordinances and regulations with respect to municipal affairs, subject only to restrictions and limitations provided for in this Charter, and with respect to other matters subject to applicable general laws. Concerning municipal affairs, this Charter shall supercede all inconsistent laws. Nothing in this Charter shall be construed to prevent or restrict the City from exercising or consenting to the general laws of the State. This Charter is intended to be construed in favor of the exercise by the City of its powers related to municipal affairs.

ARTICLE III. City Council.

3.01 Number of City Council Members. The legislative body of the city of Davis shall be the City Council, comprised of five (5) Council members.

3.02 Term of Council Members. All City Council members shall be elected at large in the City's General Municipal Election, as specified by City ordinance, and all shall have a four-year term. The terms of Council members shall be staggered, two (2)

being elected at one General Municipal Election and three (3) being elected at the next.

3.03 Council Vacancies. A vacancy in a City Council office shall be filled in compliance with the City's ordinance or in the absence of an ordinance, in compliance with state law.

ARTICLE IV. Local Control of Growth

4.01. The people of the city of Davis recognize and declare that managing and limiting growth and ensuring that necessary public facilities are provided to the people of the city of Davis are essential elements of local control and therefore are municipal affairs. The intent of this Charter is to allow the City Council and the voters to exercise the maximum degree of control over land use matters within the city of Davis.

ARTICLE V. Transition.

5.01 Continuity of Interests and Laws. The city of Davis shall continue to own, possess, and control all rights and property, including causes of action, of every kind and nature owned, possessed, or controlled by it at the time this Charter takes effect, and shall continue to be subject to all debts, obligations, liabilities, and contracts. All ordinances, resolutions, rules, regulations, or portions thereof, in effect at the time

this Charter takes effect, are hereby continued in full force and effect until repealed, amended, or superceded.

5.02 Continuity of Officers. The members of the City Council in office at the time this Charter takes effect shall continue to hold their respective offices for the terms for which they were elected.

5.03 Continuity of Employees. All employees in positions at the time this Charter takes effect shall continue to perform the duties of their positions and employment without interruption, for the same compensation, under the same conditions, until the appointment and qualification of their successors and subject to removal and control as provided by City ordinance. Further, the City Council shall not adopt any provisions for labor binding arbitration.

ARTICLE VI. Amendment or Repeal

6.01 This Charter may be amended or repealed if approved by a majority of the voters of the city of Davis voting at an election. Amendments shall become effective at the time specified in the amendment, but if no time is specified, at the time the amendment is accepted and filed with the Secretary of State by the City Clerk.

FIFTH STREET, from Page 1

to two, and incorporating bicycle lanes) might be appropriate for this stretch of Fifth Street.

The City Council recently directed staff to re-evaluate the corridor from a fresh perspective so that we can gain a better understanding of the full breadth of issues and interests regarding the future of the corridor. By better understanding how the corridor is used, what the concerns are, and what the visions for the future of the corridor might be, we will be in a better position to develop alternatives to be evaluated. We are seeking community input, and your ideas, concerns and questions are important. Here is how you can get involved:

■ Visit the Fifth Street Corridor web site to find out more about the corridor and upcoming meeting dates. Visit <http://www.cityofdavis.org/5thstreetcorridor>

■ Attend one of the upcoming Fifth Street Corridor open house meetings being held in November and December. These meetings are an open house format so you can drop in any time to learn more about the corridor and provide your input. Dates, times, and locations will be announced soon and will be posted to the web site.



Junior Basketball Program

Every winter, over 500 children participate in the City of Davis Junior Basketball program. The program is for boys and girls in third through sixth grades. The leagues consist of third/fourth grade boys and girls teams and fifth/sixth grade boys and girls teams. Teams are limited to a maximum of 10 players so that all

participants receive ample playing time. Practices are conveniently held twice a week at a neighborhood school or playground on either Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday. Depending on the coach, practices begin between 3:15 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Wednesday practices may start as early as 1:45 p.m. or as late as 3:30 p.m. Games are held on Saturdays at the Davis High School gyms.

A separate league for Junior High boys is also offered. Teams are selected at a skills clinic on Saturday, January 10 in order to promote equally skilled teams. Junior High practices are held on the school's outdoor courts after school on either Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday, beginning between 3:30 and 4:15 p.m. depending on the coach. Games are Saturday afternoons at the Davis High School gyms.

Fundamentals, sportsmanship and fun are emphasized in all leagues. Every participant receives a T-shirt in their team color. The last day to sign up is November 28. League play begins during the week of January 19.

We are always looking for fun, energetic coaches so if you are available during the practices times listed above, please apply to be a coach and a mentor to the participating players.



Veterans Memorial Theatre

This cozy performing arts theatre is an ideal location for conferences, workshops, movies or performances. The theatre seats 325 and is adjacent to the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC). Staff is friendly, knowledgeable and will help you have a successful event. We have weekday rates as low as \$33.00 per hour; in addition, we also have reduced rental rates to qualified Community Groups. For more information, call (530) 757-5626, see www.cityofdavis.org or stop by the Community Services Department at City Hall (23 Russell Blvd.)

Talk to us

CITY SERVICES

Child Care Services	757-5695
City Clerk	757-5648
City Hall FAX	758-0204
City Manager & City Council	757-5602
Code Compliance Complaints	757-5646
Community Development	757-5610
Finance Department (Utilities/Business Licenses)	757-5651
Fire (Business)	757-5684
Graffiti Hotline	757-5600
Human Resources	757-5644
Hunt-Boyer Offices	757-5691
Police (Business)	747-5400
Police Ombudsman	757-5546
Public Works	757-5686
Senior Center	757-5696
Teen Center 3rd & B	757-2065
Telecommunications Device for the Deaf	757-5666
Transit Center	757-4408

VIRTUAL DAVIS

Visit your city at www.cityofdavis.org

See Cable Channel 16 for city info, announcements, and public meetings.

EMERGENCY (land line) 911

EMERGENCY (cell phone) 530-758-3600

12 Tips for better Fuel Economy and Reducing Vehicle Emissions

The city of Davis continues to do its part to reduce fuel usage and decrease vehicle emissions in order to reduce our carbon footprint. We achieve this reduction through our preventative vehicle maintenance and purchasing program

Anytime you can use alternative transportation, you should do so.

You can also work on getting better fuel economy and reducing vehicle emissions when

you do need to drive your car. Regardless of what type of vehicle you drive, driving practices and a own scheduled

preventative maintenance program can make a big difference on the amount of fuel you consume. The city's Fleet Services Program would like to share twelve tips every driver can follow to improve a vehicle's fuel economy and reduce vehicle emissions.

1. Don't idle your vehicle to "warm it up" in the morning. It is not necessary to prolong engine life. Simply start the engine and let it idle for 10 or 15 seconds, and then

drive off easily. If you are going to be stopped with the engine idling for over 15 seconds, such as waiting for a train crossing, always turn your engine off. The fuel used to start up a hot engine is about the same amount used to idle for 15 seconds. Remember, idling gets "0" miles per gallon.

2. Accelerate smoothly and easily. Avoid fast starts. Anticipate traffic flow and traffic lights. Fast acceleration from stops and weaving in moving traffic wastes fuel. Smooth, gradual changes in speed conserve fuel. By anticipating the next stop light, you can reduce braking by coasting to the light.

3. Minimize the weight you carry in your vehicle. Extra weight, (like carrying those tire chains in the trunk all year around), makes your engine work harder and consume more fuel. Every 100 lbs of weight decreases your fuel economy by 1% to 2%.

4. Combine trips, plan ahead. Your vehicle is most efficient when the engine is fully warmed up. Numerous, short trips with a cold engine wastes fuel and produce more exhaust emissions. By making one continuous trip instead of four to five separate trips could increase your fuel economy by as much as 50% to 70%.

5. Minimize the use of the A/C when you can. The air conditioner requires the engine to consume more fuel but does not get you any closer to your destination. When driving at low speed around town, avoid or

minimize the use of air conditioning. Roll your window down for some fresh air. For highway driving, roll-up the windows for improved aerodynamics, and use the air conditioner only if needed. Use the vent setting as much as possible. At highway speeds, your vehicle is more efficient with the windows rolled up even if you use the A/C.

6. Roof racks increase aerodynamic drag and waste fuel. If your roof rack won't be needed for awhile, take it off.

7. Drive at the posted speed limit on the highway. For every 5 mph over 65 mph your fuel economy will decrease by 7%. Use the cruise control when possible. This device reduces unnecessary speed changes and saves fuel. You can achieve your best fuel economy between 40-60 mph.

8. Keep your tires properly inflated. Under inflated tires make your engine work harder and waste fuel. Use the manufacturer's recommended air pressure which you will find on the door jam sticker or in your owner's manual. You could increase your fuel economy by as much as 3% if your tires are kept at the recommended pressure.

9. Use the correct viscosity motor oil. Always follow the vehicle manufacturer's recommendations. Look for oils with "energy-conserving" or ECIII symbol on the container. The new oil formulations reduce internal engine friction which improves fuel

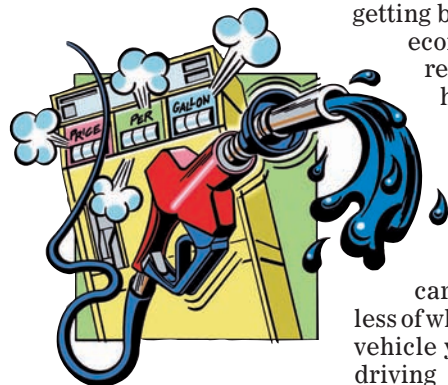
economy and prolongs engine life. Using the correct oil viscosity for your engine could save you as much as 2% on fuel.

10. Maintain your vehicle as recommended in your vehicle owner's manual. A dirty air filter wastes fuel. Pay attention to the "Check Engine" light if it is illuminated. A defective ignition system or oxygen sensor can result in extremely high fuel consumption and increase exhaust emissions. Replacing a dirty air cleaner could increase your fuel economy by as much as 10%. Replacing a faulty oxygen sensor could increase your fuel economy by as much as 40%.

11. If you have a manual transmission, always drive in the highest gear that allows the engine to run smoothly without excessive engine speed. The 5th gear is usually an overdrive gear ratio which lets the engine run a slower speed which conserves fuel at higher speeds.

12. If you have an automatic transmission, and the transmission allows you to select a "trailer tow" or "sport" mode, don't forget to select the "normal" mode when you are not pulling a trailer or driving on the hilly or mountainous roads. The "normal" mode allows the transmission to operate in the most fuel efficient manner, which reduces engine speed, while improving fuel economy.

For further information, visit the following websites: www.fueleconomy.gov, www.doe.gov, and your vehicle manufacturer's website.



Convenient Longer-term Paid Parking Now Available Downtown

Finding a convenient parking spot in downtown Davis has gotten easier with the introduction of paid parking the E Street Plaza parking lot. Now you can park for up to 4 hours without having to move your vehicle in the core area.

For only \$1.00 per hour or 25 cents for 15 minutes, you can shop, dine and go to the movies any day of the week without worrying about whether your car is going to get a parking ticket. The new multi-space meters, located at the entrances on E Street and F Street will accept coins, bills and credit cards.

After parking your vehicle, take note of the parking space number painted on the ground. At either of the paystations, punch in the parking space number on the keypad. You can select the amount of time you wish to purchase, up to four hours. Once payment is accepted, the meter issues a receipt that indicates the parking expiration

time. You don't even have to go back to your vehicle and place the receipt on your dash.

Vehicles with a valid disabled parking placard or license plate are allowed to park in one of the three designated spaces in the lot free of charge. Electric vehicles and motorcycles can park in the designated "EV" and "Motorcycle" spaces for free as well.

The City enforces parking Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Parking is free after 6:00 p.m. and on Sundays and holidays. Vehicles parked in unpaid or expired spaces will be cited. Net revenue from the paid parking will be used for parking lot landscaping, lighting, signage and improving the convenience of parking downtown.

For more information, contact the Davis Downtown Business Association at (530) 756-8763 or the city of Davis at (530) 747-5444.

Remember to change your clocks

When you change your clocks to Pacific Standard Time on Sunday, November 2nd, remember to change the batteries in your smoke alarms, too. Once you've changed the batteries, be sure to test the alarms.



23 Russell Boulevard
Davis, California 95616

Davis
California

Davis Focus is a publication of the Davis City Manager's Office, and is distributed to all city residents. Our goal is to inform our community about policies and services. For more information or comments, e-mail us at focus@cityofdavis.org, www.cityofdavis.org
Brochure design by Shawn Collins

CITY OFFICIALS

City Council Members:

Ruth Asmundson (Mayor)

Don Saylor (Mayor Pro-Tempore)

Sue Greenwald

Lamar Heystek

Stephen Souza

City Manager: Bill Emlen

City Attorney: Harriet Steiner

Postal Customer

DAVIS, CA 95616
95617
95618

Davis
California

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2008

focus
A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR COMMUNITY

PRESRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1
CARRIER ROUTE
PRE-SORT
DAVIS, CA